

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/790,603

Examiner

Robert G. Santos

Applicant(s)

WU, SHANG-NENG

Art Unit

3673

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the papers filed on 14 November 2005 and the telephonic interview held on 07 December 2005.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 7-21, 23, 24, 31 and 33-36, now renumbered as claims 1-22.

3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:

1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.

(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material


5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 12072005.

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____


ROBERT G. SANTOS
PRIMARY EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Kyle L. Elliott on December 7, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the specification:

- 1) On page 1, in the second line of paragraph 0001: The phrase --, now U.S. Pat. No. 6,698,046-- has been inserted after the date "26 March 2002".
- 2) On page 5, in line 10 and on page 6, in line 7: "continuos" has been changed to --continuous--.
- 3) On page 6, in line 8: "Continuos" has been changed to --Continuous--.

In the claims:

- 1) In claim 7, line 2: The first instance of the term "the" has been changed to the phrase --a plurality of--.
- 2) In claim 7, line 4: The term "an" has been changed to --the--.

- 3) In claim 7, lines 9 & 11 and in claim 31, lines 8 & 9: The phrase --substantially completely-- has been inserted before the term “from”.
- 4) In claim 7, line 11 and in claim 31, line 10: The term “adapted” has been changed to the term --configured--.
- 5) In the third line of claims 17 and 18: The term “valve” has been changed to --valves--, and the term “line” has been changed to --lines--.
- 6) In claim 21, line 3: The first instance of the term “the” has been changed to --an--, and the first instance of the term “an” has been changed to --the--.
- 7) In claim 21, lines 4 & 6: The phrase --substantially completely-- has been inserted after the term “air”.
- 8) In claim 21, line 7: The term “adapting” has been changed to --configuring--.
- 9) In claim 21, line 8: The term --just-- has been inserted before the term “two”, and the term --operative-- has been inserted after the term “two”.
- 10) Claim 37 has been cancelled.

2. The following is an examiner’s statement of reasons for allowance: The examiner respectfully asserts that none of the prior art, taken either singly or in combination, is seen to teach or suggest the use of a system for supplying air and controlling the flow of air into and out of a plurality of chambers of a patient-supporting low air loss air mattress wherein the system comprises the particular structural configuration of a controllable blower having an intake port and an exhaust port; air supply lines leading to the chambers of the air mattress; and a rotary valve including a valve housing and a gate member movably positioned within the housing, the

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valve being operable from, *and limited to, one of two positions* by which the flow of air is selectively diverted, a first position in which air is permitted to flow *substantially completely* from the blower exhaust port through a single inflation port of the valve housing to the chambers of the air mattress, and a second position in which the flow of air is routed *substantially completely* from the air mattress through a single deflation port *into the blower intake port*, the system also being configured to effect *substantial and rapid evacuation of air from the air mattress when the gate member is in the second position*, an amount of air flow being controllable from *within* the air supply lines, as explicitly stated in Applicant's independent claims 7, 21 and 31. With regards to the cited prior art, Tringali et al. '837 teaches the use of a valve structure which allows for simultaneous inflation and deflation of an air mattress (i.e., the air mattress includes a plurality of chambers which are continuously and alternately inflated and deflated) as opposed to the use of a valve which operates solely between two positions for either substantially inflating or deflating the air mattress as claimed by Applicant, while Johnson et al. '595 simply teaches the use of a valve structure which is manipulated between more than two operative positions. Furthermore, most conventional valve mechanisms associated with inflatable mattresses are constructed to vent air directly to the atmosphere in order to deflate the mattress instead of directing air through the intake port of a blower connected to the mattress in order to achieve rapid evacuation of air from the mattress as recited in Applicant's claims. Since an updated search of the prior art also did not yield any other references pertinent to Applicant's claims, it is considered that the application is currently in full and proper condition for allowance.

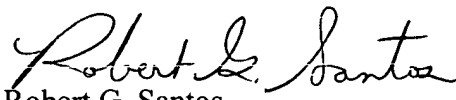
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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert G. Santos whose telephone number is (571) 272-7048. The examiner can normally be reached on Tues-Fr and first Mondays, 10:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Suzanne L. Barrett can be reached on (571) 272-7053. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Robert G. Santos
Primary Examiner
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R.S.
December 7, 2005